Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Bounty of South Kanara District Board towards the Leper Asylum at Mangalore.

*462 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to his answer to question No. 409 (*a*) and (*b*) given on 21st August 1924 (Volume XIX, page 656) and state—

(*a*) what are the lines of distinction between 'national', 'non-national' and 'semi-national' institutions which regulate the bounty of local boards towards charitable institutions;

(*b*) for what reasons the District Board of South Kanara regards the Leper asylum at Mangalore as 'semi-national' which constitutes a bar to any grant-in-aid being given by it to that institution;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the majority of the lepers in South Kanara (371 according to the last census) looked after in the Leper asylum at Mangalore (45) are natives of that district;

(*d*) whether Government consider the ground given by the District Board of South Kanara a valid one for stopping the contribution it used to grant formerly to the asylum (Rs. 500); and

(*e*) how the Government propose to make up the contribution withdrawn by the District Board of South Kanara?

A.—(*a*) The Government have nowhere laid down any such distinction.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information. It is purely for the local body to decide to what charitable institutions it wishes to subscribe.

(*d*) The Government cannot compel a local body to subscribe to a charitable institution if it does not wish to do so. The question of the soundness of the reason given by the district board for stopping its contribution does not therefore arise.

(*e*) The Government already make a monthly capitation grant to the asylum of Rs. 4-8-0 per patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 3,670. There is no proposal at present to make up the contribution withdrawn by the district board.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" In reply to question No. 409 I put last year in August, the answer was that the district board has stopped the contribution for the reason that the Leper asylum at Mangalore was a 'semi-national' institution. I was afraid to ask the question what 'semi-national' meant, because I would get the answer 'Look into the dictionary' (laughter). Yet I looked into the dictionary, and I do not find the word 'semi-national'. I do not know what the hon. the Chief Minister means by calling the institution 'semi-national', though he was kind enough to give that as the reason for stopping the contribution. With reference to clause (*e*), I want to know what the policy of the Government is at present as to helping charitable institutions like leper asylums, whether Government propose to concentrate in one colony near Chingleput all the lepers in the Presidency, or whether they want to foster local leper asylums."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question of locating the lepers in a particular place or places is still engaging the attention of the Government."

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Mr. M. Ratnaswami :—" May I ask whether the Government approve of this policy of district boards refusing necessary help to leper asylums on the ground that they are semi-national institutions ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" Sir, the Government will certainly be glad if the local boards make a grant to such institutions as leper asylums. As to the general policy of the district boards the Government do not propose to dictate."

Mr. M. Ratnaswami :—" Will the Government consider the question of making up for the deficiency if particular district boards do not consider favourably the question of making grants to such semi-national institutions ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" The proposal is not before the Government. If there is any such proposal, the Government will consider it."

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" I find from the answer to clause (e) that the Government already make a monthly capitation grant to the asylum of Rs. 4–8–0 per patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 3,670. My information is to the effect that out of 371 lepers admitted into the asylum most of them are Christians. Will the Government be pleased to instruct the District Board of South Kanara to see that non-Christians are also freely admitted ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" I am not sure that all of them are Christians. I have visited some of these asylums managed by the missions. Hindus and others also are admitted into those asylums."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I ask where my hon. Friend Mr. Gopalan got his information from. He said there were 371 patients in the asylum, whereas my information is that there are only 45, and that there are hardly 371 patients even in the whole district. I want also to know wherefrom he got the information that the majority of them are Christians "

Appointment, etc., of chairmen of municipalities as presidents of district boards, etc.

* 463 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases the chairmen of municipalities have been appointed or elected as presidents of district or taluk boards ;

(b) if so, the names of those district or taluk boards whose presidents continue to be the chairmen of such municipalities ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to stop the continuance of the same gentleman functioning both as president of a district or taluk board and chairman of a municipality as the work of either body is sufficient to occupy his full time ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the latest Annual Civil List.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Mr. R. Veerian :—" May I know, with reference to clause (c), whether at least for the efficient administration of the local boards and municipalities it is not better to have separate presidents for local boards and separate chairmen for municipalities so that they may function properly ? "